

REMARKS

The application filed herewith is a continuation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of International Application No. PCT/JP01/02547, filed March 28, 2001, which designates the United States and which claims benefit of priority of Japanese Application No. 2001-062224, filed March 6, 2001. A certified copy of the priority document will be submitted in due course.

Pages 4-5 of the specification have been amended as to matters of form.
No new matter has been added.

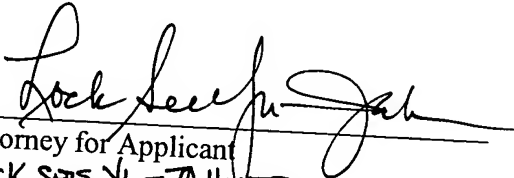
Claims 1-27 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 20, and 24 are in independent form. Claims 1-14, 16-22, and 26 have been amended, with no change in scope, to eliminate any improper multiple dependencies and as to other matters of form.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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